

Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network

**Youth Council
11/13/08 Meeting Minutes**

Youth Opportunity Center
3447 Atlantic Avenue
Long Beach, California 90807

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Ben Espitia, Coleen Maldonado, Darick Simpson, Darnisa Tyler, Dr. Henry O'Lawrence, Farley Herzek, James Drake, Mary Rivera, Matt Saldana, Sandy Annino for Michelle Allen, Nancy Risch, Tom Benson

Staff: Bryan Rogers, Cherie Gomez, Rick Gonzalez, Alejandra Lopez, Susan Gainey, Suzanne Gordin

Guests: Jessica Ku (ACCORD), Kelly Miller (SSG/OTTP), Demona Barlow (ACCORD)

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. Darick Simpson welcomed attendees and asked for self-introductions.

II. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Guests from ACCORD and SSG/OTTP provided information about their agencies' youth programs. Coleen Maldonado announced that Long Beach City College will host a career pathways conference for high school counselors with the goal of addressing gaps between education and careers and exposing students to myriad options available to them. Ben Espitia thanked Bryan Rogers and Youth Opportunity Center staff for participating in the Long Beach Unified School District career fair held at California State University, Long Beach, with over 3,000 students and parents in attendance. Goodwill Serving the People of Southern Los Angeles County also had a booth and representatives at this event.

III. Council Discussion

- **Final PY 2008 – 2009 Youth Budget**

The WIB adopted the Network's PY 2008-2008 budget, the Youth portion of which is being shared to enhance the Council's understanding of its fiscal importance and responsibility. Bryan Rogers explained that the

Network's overall budget includes Workforce Investment Act (WIA) adult, youth and dislocated funding and factors in 25 funding streams and grant sources. The Youth Budget includes WIA Youth, Family Support, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Hire-A-Youth, County Work Experience and Prevention Initiatives funding. Subsequent to the WIB adopting the budget, funds were received from the City's Refuse Fund for a creative training and work experience project in concert with beautification and maintenance of key downtown and central Long Beach corridors. The total funding allocations are broken down by carry-over, General Fund, and PY 08/09 allotments, as well as by line item (e.g. personnel services, training, supportive services, subcontractors, etc.). A question was raised regarding a projected deficit in WIA Youth funding. Bryan indicated staff would provide clarification via e-mail.

- **PY 2008 – 2009 Youth Academy Performance**

Rick Gonzalez provided an update of 1st Quarter Evaluations for Subcontractors by region and for in- and out-of-school youth. Due to the initial timeframes, these evaluations focused specifically on enrollments, as it was too early to evaluate other outcomes such as completed training, entered employment, and retention. Rick explained the definitions and parameters for corrective action (based on a variance of 10% or below of planned totals). He noted YOC staff is assisting the subcontractors with outreach strategies, information fairs, and connecting them to the Network's Communication's Unit resulting in enhanced marketing efforts. Four subcontractors were identified as needing corrective action responses. Ben Espitia of Goodwill explained the challenges of meeting early enrollment goals when factoring in WIA performance requirements. It is anticipated that overall improved performance will be demonstrated in the next quarter.

- **Educational Reform Plan - LA County Probation**

Bryan discussed Supervisor Knabe's efforts to formulate an Education Reform Committee within the auspices of the County's Probation Department. He provided a matrix summarizing the Committee's 35 recommendations pertaining to school aged youth in camps and their eventual re-entry into school through the Office of Student Support Services at Long Beach Unified School District. Potential seamless service strategies, coordination efforts, and possible grant applications between the Probation Department, Long Beach Unified School District and the YOC have been explored during the past several months to assist the 250 – 400 youth, most 14 – 17 years of age, who return from camps to Long Beach each year.

- **Pathways to Careers**

Rick Gonzalez provided information about the Pathways to Careers project, including the flyer, fact sheet, letter, and application packet. He

noted this Hire-A-Youth program gives youth aged 14 – 21 an opportunity to experience up to 140 hours of paid work experience in a high demand/ high growth industry such as health care, hospitality/tourism, public safety/ law enforcement or trade/transportation/utilities; work readiness training and industry-specific workshops / activities. The initial high school presentations have just begun; 40 youth attended the outreach event at Lakewood High School and 35 – 40 were anticipated at the YOC presentation this evening.

IV. New Business

- **Resource Development**

Bryan indicated staff has been actively working on two resource development projects. The CalGRIP application ties to the County's Probation Department's Education Reform Plan previously discussed. In addition, staff prepared an application to the LA County's Probation Department to be as a service provider in the Long Beach – Torrance – Lakewood area that nicely overlays the Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network's service area. The application includes Work Readiness Skills preparation and referrals to jobs that mirrors the Hire-A-Youth program. Referrals will be generated by the County's Probation Department. The estimated billable services amount to approximately \$200,000 per year and one vendor will be chosen for the region.

- **Chamber Partnerships**

Blake Christian of the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce is strongly committed to youth activities, including Hire-A-Youth and other direct placement avenues. Through the Quarterly Business Alliance, Blake is ready to move forward quickly and aggressively with an outreach marketing campaign in conjunction with Network staff. There is a need to reconcile the feasibility of providing stipends versus paid hours as part of the outreach committee's efforts. Various collaborative models between Chambers of Commerce, Youth Council, school districts and employers were discussed.

- Bryan noted the Board had created an ad hoc subcommittee, which Rosi Pederson will lead, to research and make recommendations on adopting a Work Readiness Credential. Right now there are five WIB members on this subcommittee it was agreed to expand it further to include Youth Council representatives. Staff will follow-up with Council members to inquire about their interest in serving on this subcommittee.

V. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.